

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 160721Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1731

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 0211

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, YO

SUBJ: "ENEMY ELEMENTS" SENTENCED IN PRISTINA

1. BORBA, POLITIKA, AND TANJUG JAN 15 CARRIED REPORTS OF SENTENCING OF FIVE ETHNIC ALBANIANS FOR HOSTILE "IRRIDENTIST" ACTIVITY. SENTENCES RANGED FROM THREE TO NINE YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

2. JAN 15 BORBA ALSO RAN COMMENTARY FROM ALBANIAN-LANGUAGE RILINDJA (PRISTINA) STATING THAT CONVICTED FIVE "IN ATTIRE OF ALBANIAN NATIONALISM, FROM IRRIDENTIST POSITIONS" HAD ATTACKED SELF-MANAGEMENT, BROTHERHOOD AND UNITY, AND YUGOSLAV "INTEGRITY AND INDEPENDENCE". THE FIVE WERE LABELED "BASICALLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, COMINFORMIST, AND DEEPLY ANTI-ALBANIAN."

3. REUTERS CORRESPONDENT HERE, GUTMAN, TOLD EMBOFF JAN 15 THAT ARTICLES WERE IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY SEVERAL BELGRADE CORRESPONDENTS FOR OFFICIAL YUGOSLAV REACTION TO REPORTS OF OVER 100 ARRESTS AFTER A RECENT ALALBANIAN NATIONALIST DEMONSTRATION IN PRISTINA. ARTICLES ON DEMONSTRATION HAVE BEEN FILED BY REUTERS AND AFP. BUT IT IS STILL NOT ENTIRELY CLEAR WHETHER YUGOSLAV PRESS ARTICLES AND DEMONSTRATION REPORTS REFER TO SAME INCIDENT, GUTMAN TOLD EMBOFF.

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4. REUTERS ARTICLE WAS BASED ON REPORTS "FROM THREE OR FOUR SOURCES" INCLUDING USUALLY WELL-INFORMED BELGRADE LEGAL CIRCLES, ACCORDING TO GUTMAN. SOURCES MENTIONED A DEMONSTRATION TAKING PLACE IN PRISTINA AROUND LATE DECEMBER. DEMONSTRATORS, MOSTLY PRISTINA UNIVERSITY STUDENTS OF ALBANIAN ORIGIN, REPORTEDLY SHOUTED ANTI-TITO AND PRO-HOXHA SLOGANS. (REUTERS ARTICLE HAS APPEARED IN JAN 14 LONDON TIMES AND REPORTEDLY IN WASHINGTON POST.)

5. COMMENT: NEITHER EXACT NATURE OF EVENTS NOR THEIR CAUSE IS CLEAR. ONE FACTOR IN WHATEVER DID TAKE PLACE MAY HAVE BEEN SERB-ALBANIAN ILL-FEELING. AUSTRIAN DCM TOLD EMBOFF JAN 14 HE HAD HEARD OF INCIDENT IN PRISTINA ATTRIBUTED TO "SERBIAN PROVOCATEURS". THERE IS NO DOUBT ILL-FEELING EXISTS, ALTHOUGH ITS EXTENT IS HARD TO ESTIMATE. GOY MAKES EVERY EFFORT TO MINIMIZE ILL-FEELING, BUT WE WOULD NOT FIND IT SURPRISING IF EVIDENCE TURNS UP THAT WHATEVER DISTURBANCE TOOK PLACE WAS A REACTION TO SOME ACTION BY SERB/MONTENEGRIN ELEMENT IN KOSOVO. TOON

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINS, YO, AL, BORBA, POLITIKA, TANJUG  
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